

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A fuel for motor vehicles comprising an emulsion between water and a liquid hydrocarbon, and 30 ppm to 3 % by weight per total weight of the emulsion of an anti-cavitation additive, including said anti-cavitation additive comprising a copolymer comprising prepared by copolymerizing 20-80% in moles of an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer units containing at least one carboxylic acid group and 80-20% in moles of units deriving from at least one other ethylenically unsaturated monomer having an ethylene unsaturation, and wherein (1) at least 20% in moles of the carboxylic acid groups in the copolymer is in the form of at least one derivative selected from the group consisting of carboxylate salt, ester, amide and imide derivatives of the carboxylic acid groups, and (2) the copolymer has an average molecular weight M_w ranging from 700 to 3000.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the carboxylic acid groups present in the copolymer are partially or totally salified by means of a neutralization reaction carried out with an inorganic or organic base.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to claim 3, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of hydroxides of alkaline or alkaline earth metals, ammonium hydroxide or quaternary ammonium hydroxides, sodium and/or potassium carbonates and bicarbonates, and C_1 - C_{30} aliphatic alkyl amines.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to claim 1-~~or~~ 2, wherein the carboxylic acid groups present in the copolymer are partially or totally esterified by means of an alcohol or a polyol with a low number of carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to claim 1-~~or~~ 2, wherein the carboxylic acid groups present in the copolymer are partially or totally transformed into amide or imide groups by means of thermal treatment in the presence of a primary or secondary aliphatic amine with a low number of carbon atoms.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~units containing at least one~~ ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer is ~~group derive from~~ a C₃-C₁₀ aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having an ethylene unsaturation; or ~~from~~ a C₄-C₁₀ aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having an ethylene unsaturation.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer ~~having an ethylene unsaturation~~ is selected from the group consisting of: C₂-C₁₂ α -olefins, C₁-C₆ alkyl esters of (meth)acrylic acid, vinyl ethers and vinyl esters.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the liquid hydrocarbon has a viscosity at 40°C ranging from 1 to 5.3 cSt and a density at 15°C ranging from 0.75 to 1.1 kg/dm³.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the water is present in a quantity ranging from 2 to 40% by weight, ~~with respect to the~~ per total weight of the emulsion.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the emulsion is of the water-in-oil type.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to claim 11, wherein the emulsion comprises at least one emulsifying agent whose concentration ranges from 0.1 to 10% by weight ~~with respect to the~~ per total weight of the emulsion.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 12, wherein said at least one emulsifying agent has an HLB (Hydrophilic-Lipophilic Balance) value ranging from 2 to 10.

Claim 14 (Original): The fuel for motor vehicles according to claim 13, wherein said at least one emulsifying agent has an HLB (Hydrophilic-Lipophilic Balance) value ranging from 3 to 8.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 12, wherein said at least one emulsifying agent is a product obtained by the reaction of: (a1) a polyolefinic oligomer functionalized with at least one group deriving from a dicarboxylic acid, or one of its derivatives; with (a2) a polyoxy-alkylene comprising linear oxy-alkylene units, said polyoxy-alkylene being bound to a long-chain alkyl group optionally containing at least one ethylene unsaturation.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The fuel for motor vehicles according to ~~any of the claims from 1 to 14~~ claim 12, wherein said at least one emulsifying agent is a product obtained by the reaction of (b1) a carboxylic acylating agent containing a hydrocarbon chain having from 50 to 500 carbon atoms, with (b2) ammonia or an amine.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A process for feeding an internal combustion engine which comprises: feeding a fuel to a combustion chamber of said engine; and igniting said fuel in said combustion chamber, wherein said fuel comprises an emulsion between water and a liquid hydrocarbon, and an anti-cavitation additive according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims from 1 to 16~~.

Claim 18 (Original): The process according to claim 17, wherein the internal combustion engine is a diesel cycle engine.

Claim 19 (New): The fuel for motor vehicles according to claim 1, comprising 50 ppm to 1.5 % by weight per total weight of the emulsion of the anti-cavitation additive.